ARTICLES

OF

VISITATION, and ENQUIRY,

Concerning

MATTERS ECCLESIASTICAL;

Exhibited to the

Miniſters, *Church-Wardens*, and *Side-Men*,

Of every PARISH within the

Dioceſe of Lincoln,

AT THE

TRIENNIAL VISITATION

OF THE

Right Reverend Father in God,

WILLIAM,

Lord Biſhop of that Dioceſe,

Anno Dom' MDCCIX.

Printed in the Year 1709.

The TENOUR of the OATH to be administred to the *Church-Wardens* of every Pariſh.

YOU ſhall ſwear, That the Preſentment *you now exhibit, is a true and full* Preſentment *of All ſuch Perſons and Things, as by theſe* Articles, *and the* Eccleſiaſtical Laws *of this Realm, you know to be preſentable within your* Pariſh;

So help you God.

ARTICLES of VISITATION, &c.

I desire that particular ... be set down to these A... Margin, which is left l... purpose.

TIT. I. *Concerning Churches and Chappels: The Fabrick, Furniture, and Ornaments, thereunto belonging.*

I. IS your Parish-Church, or Chappel, in good and sufficient repair? Are the Roofs thereof well covered with Lead, Tile, or Slate? Are the Windows well glaz'd? Are the Floors kept paved, plain, and even? Are the Seats well and conveniently placed? And are all Things, in general, so decently ordered, and kept, as becometh the House of God? ANSWER.

II. Hath the Steeple, or Tower, of your Church or Chappel, or any other Part thereof, been taken down? How long since, and upon what Occasion was it done? Have any of the Bells, Lead, or Materials thereunto belonging, been imbezell'd, sold, or otherwise made away? Or do any of these still remain in any private Hands; and in whose Hands do they remain? ANSWER.

III. Have you in your Church, or Chappel, a Bible of the largest Volume, and of the last Translation, together with a Common-Prayer-Book of the same? Have you the Books of Homilies set forth by Authority? A Book of Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical; with the printed Table of the Degrees wherein Marriage is prohibited? ANSWER.

IV. Is there in your Church, or Chappel, a Font of Stone, set in the ancient usual Place, for the Administration of Baptism? Is there a convenient and decent Table for the Celebration of the Holy Communion? Is it covered in time of Divine Service, with a Carpet of Silk, or other decent Stuff; and with a fair Linen-cloath at the Time of the Ministration of the Holy Sacrament? Have you a fair Communion-Cup, or Chalice, with Paten, and Flaggons, proper for that Service? Are they kept only for this use, and not employed to any other? ANSWER.

V. Have you, in your said Church, or Chappel, a convenient Seat, or Pew, for your Minister to read Divine Service in, together with a comely and decent Pulpit for the preaching of God's Word? Have you a large and fitting Surplice, and Hood, for the Minister to wear when he ministers in the Church? And is the same Surplice duly washed, and repaired, at the charge of the Parish? ANSWER.

VI. Have you a Chest for Alms, set and fastned in some convenient Place of your Church or Chappel, for that purpose, with three Locks and Keys? ANSWER.

VII. Have you a Register-Book of Parchment, wherein to write the Day and Year of every Christening, Wedding, and Burial, within your Parish? Are the Names of all Persons Christen'd, together with the Names, or Sirnames, of their Parents, and also the Names of all Persons married, and buried, in the Parish the Week before; with the Day and Year of every such Christening, Marriage, and Burial, duly entred into the said Book, by the Minister of your Parish, in Presence of the Church-Wardens? And, for the safe keeping of the said Book, have you a Coffer, with three Locks and Keys, provided according to the Canon in that behalf? And is it duly kept there? ANSWER.

ANSWER. VIII. Have you a Bier, with a black Hearſe-cloath, for the Burial of your Dead?

ANSWER. IX. Is your Church, or Chappel, kept free from all prophane Uſes? Are any Feaſts, Church-Ales, Drinkings, Juries, Temporal-Courts, or Leets, Lay-Juries, or Muſters, kept in your Church, Chappel, or Church-Yard?

TIT. II. *Concerning the Church-Yard; the Houſes; Glebe; Tythes; and other Dues belonging to the Church.*

ANSWER. X. IS your Church-Yard ſufficiently fenced with Walls, Pales, or Rails? Is it kept decently from all Annoyances? Do you know of any Perſon who hath incroached upon the ſame, or made any Door into it, out of his own Ground, without allowance from the Ordinary? Have any Trees growing therein been cut down, and by whom, and for what uſe?

ANSWER. XI. Is the Houſe belonging to your Miniſter, together with all the Out-Houſes thereunto appertaining, kept in good and ſufficient repair? Hath any Part of the ſaid Houſe, or any of the ſaid Out-Houſes been pull'd down, or defac'd, without Licence from the Ordinary? Hath any Perſon that you know of, incroach'd upon any Lands thereunto belonging? Or cut down any Trees growing thereon? Or remov'd the ancient Marks and Boundaries of the ſame?

ANSWER. XII. Have any of the ancient Glebe-Lands belonging to your Parſonage or Vicarege; any Houſes, or Out-Houſes, been taken away, or exchanged, without the Licenſe of the Ordinary, and free Conſent of the Incumbent? Have any Incloſures been made in your Pariſh to the Detriment of the Church? And when was this done?

NOTE. XIII. *Whereas by the LXXXVII. Canon of* 1604, *it is Ordained*, That every Biſhop within his Dioceſe ſhall procure (as much as in him lieth) a true *Note* and *Terrier* of all the Glebes, Lands, Medows, Gardens, Orchards, Houſes, Stocks, Implements, Tenements, and Portions of Tythes lying out of their Pariſhes, which belong to any Parſonage, or Vicarege, to be taken by the view of Honeſt Men in every Pariſh, by the appointment of the Biſhop (whereof the Miniſter to be One) and be laid up in the Biſhop's Regiſtry; *In purſuance of which* Canon, *and for the better making of ſuch a* Terrier, *I have not only ordered the Miniſters, with the Church-wardens, and others of their Pariſhes, to do this, but have ſent to every Pariſh full and particular Directions for the doing of it; which Orders have by many of the ſaid Miniſters and Church-Wardens been complied with: I do hereby give Notice to all who have not yet ſent in their* Terriers, *purſuant to ſuch my former Orders, and Directions, that they do now bring them in to Me upon the Day of my Viſitation, duly Signed and Certified; or elſe be ready to ſhew Cauſe before* Me, *or my* Vicar-General, *or ſome other* Competent Judge *who ſhall be appointed in that behalf, why they ſhould not be proceeded againſt as Juſtice requires, for their Contempt in not doing of it.*

TIT. III. *Concerning Miniſters, Preachers and Lecturers.*

ANSWER. XIV. HOW does your Miniſter hold his Living? By Inſtitution and Induction? Or only by Sequeſtration?

XV. Is he defamed, or ſuſpected to have obtain'd his Orders, or Benefice, by any Simoniacal Compact?

ANSWER.

XVI

XVI. Hath he any other Benefice with Cure of Souls? Doth he perſonally reſide upon his Cure; if not, what Curate has he, and does that Curate perſonally reſide among you? What Stipend has he? Do's he ſerve any other Cure beſides? What is that Cure? And at what diſtance from your Pariſh? ANSWER.

XVII. Do's he diſtinctly and reverently read Divine Service at the Times appointed; more particularly, on *Wedneſdays*, *Fridays*, *Sundays*, and *Holy-Days*? And when he reads it, doth he read it audibly, and intirely, according to the Form eſtabliſh'd in the Book of *Common-Prayer*; without either diminiſhing, in regard of preaching; or adding any thing in the Matter or Form thereof? ANSWER.

XVIII. Do's he duly bid, and obſerve, the Feſtivals and Faſts of the Church? And uſe the particular Forms of Prayer preſcribed for that purpoſe? Do's he take care to adminiſter the Sacrament of the Lord's-Supper ſo often, and at ſuch Times, that every Pariſhioner may receive it, at leaſt, three Times every Year, whereof *Eaſter* to be one? Do's he, ſome convenient Time before every Sacrament, give notice of it in the Church, and read the Exhortation appointed for that purpoſe? ANSWER.

XIX. Do's he, in the Adminiſtration of the Holy Sacraments, in the Celebration of Marriage, in the Offices of Churching of Women, Viſiting the Sick, and Burial of the Dead, follow the Form and Preſcription of the ſame Book of Common-Prayer; and uſe all ſuch Rites and Ceremonies in all the other Parts of Divine Service, as are appointed by the ſaid Book; and no other, but ſuch as are ſo appointed? ANSWER.

XX. Do's your Miniſter, when he ſays the publick Prayers, or miniſters the Sacraments, or other Rites of the Church, wear the Surplice preſcrib'd, together with ſuch Hood, as by Order of the Univerſities is agreeable to the Degree which he hath taken there? ANSWER.

XXI. Do's he, (being a licens'd Preacher) preach conſtantly in your Church, or Chappel, one Sermon every *Sunday*, unleſs hindred by Sickneſs, neceſſary Abſence, or ſome other lawful Impediment; and being ſo hindred, do's he procure a Sermon to be preached by ſome other the like licens'd Preacher; or One of the Homilies ſet forth by Authority, to be read by a Prieſt or Deacon lawfully ordain'd? ANSWER.

XXII. Doth any Perſon preach as a Lecturer in your Church, or Chappel? Doth he, before his Lecture, read Divine Service once every Month, and declare his Aſſent to the Book of Common Prayer, as the Act of Uniformity requires? And is he, in all reſpects, conformable to the Laws and Orders of the Church of *England*? ANSWER.

XXIII. Doth your Miniſter, when he preacheth, uſe the Form of Prayer before his Sermon, which the Canon preſcribeth, or ſome other to the ſame purport? Do's he therein pray for the Queen and Royal Family, by Name, as he is directed, and required, to do? ANSWER.

XXIV. Is your Miniſter ready to baptize Children in danger of Death? Have the Children baptized by him, (or, in his abſence, by any other lawful Miniſter) at Home, if they have recovered, been duly brought to the Church, that the Congregation may be certify'd, that they were rightly baptized, and thoſe Parts of the Office perform'd, which were before omitted? Is there any Child, or aged Perſon, in your Pariſh, yet unbaptized, thro' your Miniſters default? Doth he baptize any publickly, without Godfathers and Godmothers? ANSWER.

ANSWER.

XXV. Doth he diligently inſtruct the Youth of your Pariſh in the Church Catechiſm, and endeavour to fit them for Confirmation?

ANSWER.

XXVI. Hath your Miniſter preſumed to marry any Perſons in private Houſes? Or without the Banns duly publiſhed, or a Licenſe firſt had ſo to do? Has he married any under Age, without the conſent of their Parents, or Guardians? Has he married any within the Degrees prohibited by the Table of Marriage? Has he done it at uncanonical Hours, without a ſpecial Diſpenſation, to that effect, firſt obtain'd?

ANSWER.

XXVII. Doth your Miniſter, as often as there is occaſion for it, take care to viſit the Sick of his Pariſh, if the Diſeaſe be not known, or probably ſuſpected, to be infectious?

ANSWER.

XXVIII. Is your Miniſter, Curate, or Lecturer, a Man of a ſober, peaceable, and exemplary Life? Is he grave and modeſt in his Demeanour, and Apparel? Doth he familiarly converſe with any Perſons of Ill Fame, or Excommunicated? Is he a Haunter of Taverns, Ale-Houſes, or the like publick Places? Doth he lodge in any ſuch? Is he a common Gameſter, Swearer, Railer, Scoffer, prophane or obſcene Jeſter? Is he quarelſome with his Pariſhioners, or do's he ſet them at variance one with another, or otherwiſe encourage them to Suits and Contention? Is he defamed for Drinking, Incontinency, or any other the like Sin? Or is his Converſation, in any other reſpect, ſcandalous and diſorderly, and not becoming a Miniſter of the Goſpel?

TIT. IV. *Concerning the Pariſhioners.*

ANSWER.

XXIX. IS there any Perſon in your Pariſh, that lieth under a common Fame, or vehement Suſpicion, of Adultery, Fornication, or other Uncleanneſs? Have you there any common Drunkards, Swearers, or Blaſphemers of God's Name and Word? Have you any who ſtand excommunicate, or who countenance and keep company with ſuch?

ANSWER.

XXX. Do any of your Pariſh prophane the Lord's-Day, by neglecting God's Worſhip, or doing their own ordinary Work, or uſing any unlawful Paſtimes, or Recreations, or permitting their Children, or Servants, to offend in any of the afore-mentioned Particulars? Are any Shops kept open? Or Wares ſold? Do any Vintners, Innkeepers, or Victuallers, any Sellers of Beer and Ale, ſuffer any Perſons to tipple, or game, in their Houſes on that Day?

ANSWER.

XXXI. Have you any Perſons who, under pretence of going to ſome Meeting tolerated by Law, wholly neglect all publick Worſhip of God; and neither come to Church, nor go to any ſuch tolerated Aſſembly for Divine Service?

ANSWER.

XXXII. Have you any Meeting of Diſſenters in your Pariſh, who do not in all things regulate themſelves according to the *Act of Toleration*, as you know, or have heard?

ANSWER.

XXXIII. Do any of your Pariſh loiter, or talk together in the Church-Yard, or Church-Porch, during the time of Divine Service?

ANSWER.

XXXIV. Have you any Parents, and Maſters of Families, within your Pariſh, who profeſſing themſelves to be of the Communion of the Church of *England*, do not cauſe their Children and Servants to learn their Catechiſm, and ſend them to the Church, at the Times appointed, to be inſtructed and examined therein by the Miniſter, as by the

the Book of Common-Prayer they are required to do? And being ſufficiently inſtructed, do not take Care to bring them to the Biſhop, to be Confirmed by him, in order to their receiving the Holy Sacrament?

XXXV. Are there any in your Pariſh, who profeſſing themſelves to be of the Communion of the Church of *England*, and being above ſixteen Years of Age, and ſufficiently inſtructed in Religion, do not receive the Sacrament of the Lord's-Supper, at leaſt three times in the Year, of which *Eaſter* to be one? Are there any who refuſe to receive kneeling, or from the Hands of their own Miniſter; repairing, for that purpoſe, to other Pariſhes? Or are any Strangers, who forſake their own Churches, ordinarily ſuffered to repair to yours, for the ſame end? ANSWER.

XXXVI. Are there any in your Pariſh, who are known, or ſuſpected, to be unlawfully married, contrary to the Laws of God, and the Order of the Church of *England*? Are there any, who not being lawfully married, live together as Man and Wife? Or being lawfully married, and not divorced, do yet live aſunder? Are there any, who being lawfully ſeparated, do live together; or after having been divorced, have married again, during the Life of the Party, from whom they were divorced? ANSWER.

XXXVII. Are there any married Women in your Pariſh, who, after their Delivery from the Peril of Child-birth, refuſe to return their publick Thankſgiving to God, and to make the accuſtomed Offerings, according to the Appointment of this Church? ANSWER.

XXXVIII. Are any Wills, or Teſtaments, of Perſons deceaſed, within your Pariſh, that you know of, yet unproved? Or any Goods adminiſtred, without a due Grant from the Ordinary? Do you know of any who have left any Legacy to your Church, Chappel, or Pariſh, or to any other charitable uſe within your Pariſh? What are thoſe Legacies, and how have they been diſcharged? ANSWER.

XXXIX. Have you any in your Pariſh who refuſe to pay their *Eaſter*-Offerings, and other Duties, to their Miniſter? Or that refuſe to contribute and pay the Rates aſſeſſed upon them, for the uſe and repair of your Church, or Chappel; or the Books, Furniture, or Ornaments thereunto belonging? ANSWER.

TIT. V. *Concerning Church-Wardens, and Sides-Men.*

XL. ARE the Church-Wardens of your Pariſh yearly, and duly choſen? ANSWER.

XLI. Have the former, and laſt Church-Wardens, given up their Accounts to the Pariſh; and delivered up to the ſucceeding Church-Wardens the Monies remaining in their Hands, (if any there be) together with all other Things belonging to your Church, or Chappel? ANSWER.

XLII. Do the Church-Wardens ſuffer no Miſbehaviour, or Indecency, to be committed in the Church? Do they take care, againſt every Communion, to provide a ſufficient quantity of Bread and Wine for the Communicants? Do they at any time diſpoſe of the Money given at the Offertory, without the concurrence of the Miniſter? ANSWER.

TIT. VI. *Concerning Pariſh-Clerks, Sextons, and other Officers belonging to the Church.*

XLIII. HAve you a Pariſh-Clerk, aged 20 Years at the leaſt? Of ſober Life, and good

fy'd to perform the Duty incumbent upon him as ſuch? Doth he
ligently attend all Divine Service of the Church? Are his W
duly paid him? Or who with-holds the ſame from him?

ANSWER. XLIV. Doth he, or your Sexton, (if there be any ſuch appoi
in your Pariſh) take good care of your Church, or Chappel?
he ſee that the Doors be lock'd, and open'd at due Times? Dot
keep it clean from Duſt and Cobwebs, and other Annoyances?
he ring or toll the Bell at the accuſtomed Hours before Divine
vice, that the People may be warned to come to the Church?
in all other reſpects diligently perform the Duties of his Office?

TIT. VII. *Concerning Eccleſiaſtical Officers.*

ANSWER. XLV. ARE there any Eccleſiaſtical-Officers, who exerciſe
Eccleſiaſtical Juriſdiction within this Dioceſe, wh
mand, take, or extort, any extraordinary Fees or Rewards fo
Cauſe? Have any Abuſes or Offences between preſented by Ch
Wardens and Queſt-Men; and being preſented by them, have
been ſuppreſs'd, or left unpuniſhed; and by what means have
been ſo neglected?

ANSWER. XLVI. Have any Apparitors taken any Reward for conceal
any Offence, or to avoid the Puniſhment of the Offenders? A
they ſummon any without a Citation firſt had?

ANSWER. XLVII. Hath your Living, when it has been vacant, bee
mitted to honeſt and ſufficient Perſons, who have anſwered tr
the Profits thereof, during the Vacancy? And hath your Pari
provided with an able Miniſter, during ſuch Vacancy?

ANSWER. XLVIII. Hath any Eccleſiaſtical Officer commuted any P
of any Delinquent convicted, otherwiſe than by Law is al
And how hath the Money been diſpoſed of?

ANSWER. XLIX. Is a Table of Fees publickly hung up in the Eccle
Courts, and other places, where of right it ought to be?

TIT. VIII. *Concerning Hoſpitals, Alms-Houſes, Scholes, and*
Maſters, Chyrurgions and Midwives.

ANSWER. L. IS there any Hoſpital, Alms-Houſe, or Free-Schole, fo
your Pariſh? Who was the Founder, and is now Patr
of? What is the Endowment, or yearly Stipend, belongi
Governors or Maſters of the ſame? Are the Revenues ther
ly employed, according to the Intentions of the Founder, a
Ordinances, and Statutes, as have been made concerning t

ANSWER. LI. Doth any Perſon keep a publick or private Schole i
riſh, who is not allow'd thereunto by the Biſhop, his Cha
other Officer having Authority in that behalf? Doth ever
fter teach his Scholars the Catechiſm ſet forth by Author
he cauſe them, upon *Sundays*, or Holy-Days, orderly to re
Church, or Chappel, and ſee that they behave themſelves
ly and reverently, during the Time of Divine Service

ANSWER. LII. Doth any Man in your Pariſh take upon him to
rurgery; or any Woman to exerciſe the Office of a Mi
out Approbation and Licenſe from the Ordinary to that purpoſe